

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00

AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 AECE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 EA-11 NEA-11 IO-14

DRC-01 /198 W

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O R 141155Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9907

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIX

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 0973

STATE FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: ENERGY: BELGIAN PRESS REACTION TO WASHINGTON  
ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE HAS BEEN MAJOR SUBJECT  
OF INTEREST FOR BELGIAN MEDIA PARTICULARLY SINCE  
DELEGATIONS BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON. COVERAGE UP  
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TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 13 WAS LARGELY STRAIGHT  
REPORTING WITH GREAT EMPHASIS ON EUROPEAN ATTITUDES AND

EFFORTS TO INTERPRET USG INTENTIONS (E.G. CONFERENCE IS ATTEMPT BY ANOTHER ROUTE TO RECONSTRUCT ATLANTIC ALLIANCE).

2. DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS (CHARACTERIZED BY FINANCIAL DAILY ECHO DE LA BOURSE AS "8 PLUS 1 BEFORE KISSINGER") WHICH APPEARED AT CONFERENCE HAVE RECEIVED MAJOR ATTENTION IN BELGIAN PRESS. WHILE OCCASIONALLY CRITICAL REMARKS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST U.S., OVERWHELMING TENOR OF COMMENTARY HAS BEEN APPRECIATIVE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL AND CRITICAL OF FRENCH FOR OBSTRUCTIONIST POSITION. EXTENT OF MEDIA SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL AND REPORTED WILLINGNESS OF EC COUNTRIES APART FROM FRANCE TO RESPOND ILLUSTRATED BY COMMENT IN DUTCH LANGUAGE SOCIALIST DAILY VOLKSGAZET: "IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE WHICH PROPOSAL U.S. COULD HAVE ADVANCED AT WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE GENEROUS THAN THAT MADE BY MR. KISSINGER... LAST MONDAY. WE ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO PRAISE WASHINGTON POLICY IN GENERAL. ...IT IS CERTAINLY FIRST TIME, AND IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN EVERYDAY, THAT A GREAT POWER, IN THIS CASE THE U.S., PROPOSES, ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, TO SHARE PART OF ITS TOTAL OIL PRODUCTION WITH OTHERS. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE OPPOSITE APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME NORMAL PRACTICE IN THIS WORLD. DR. KISSINGER'S OFFER DEFINITELY REFLECTS A GENEROSITY TOWARDS FRIENDS IN TIMES OF CRISIS WHICH IS TYPICAL OF U.S. AMERICAN ARSENAL APPARENTLY STANDS READY AGAIN TO PROVIDE LION'S SHARE IN CONFRONTATION ON WHICH SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE MAY ULTIMATELY DEPEND."

3. MUCH OF COMMENTARY OF TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12 AND 13 IS DIRECTED AT FRENCH ATTITUDES. SOME DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN ALLEGED FRENCH GOAL OF EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE, WHICH ARE SUPPORTED, AND CURRENT FRENCH POLICY, WHICH IS GENERALLY VIEWED AS SELFISH AND OBSTRUCTIONIST. IN IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT BRUSSELS DAILY, LE SOIR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF BELGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE MARCEL GREGOIRE APPEARED TO SUM UP OPINION OF MANY IN LONG FRONT  
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PAGE ARTICLE CRITICIZING FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARDS U.S. IN GENERAL AND AT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE IN PARTICULAR, CONCLUDING WITH PHRASE: "EUROPEANS MUST ALWAYS TREAT AMERICANS AS ALLIES, SOMETIMES - OFTEN - AS RIVALS; NEVER AS ADVERSARIES".

4. LOCAL PRESS IS INTERPRETING MAJOR ISSUES OF CONFERENCE TO BE (A) EC UNITY AND (B) EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. GENERAL SENSE OF COMMENTARY IS CONCERN FOR (A) AND SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING OF (B).

5. AS OF AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 13, BELGIAN PRESS HAS LARGELY  
IGNORED ISSUES OF CONFRONTATION WITH ARAB  
PRODUCERS AND HELP FOR LDC'S WHICH WERE MAJOR IT  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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